

Motion Picture Film Reviews

HOMER N. CALVER, *Film Review Editor*

Survival Under Atomic Attack. Civilian preparation for possible enemy attack. 9 minutes. The first of nine films on the general theme of civilian defense to be issued by the Civilian Defense Administration. All to be released through United World Films, Inc., 1445 Park Avenue, New York 29, N. Y. Various black and white versions of this film are available: 16 mm. with sound, at \$17.50; 16 mm. without sound, at \$9.75; 8 mm. silent, at \$5.50. Headline prints in 16 mm. are \$2.75 and in 8 mm. are \$1.75. 35 mm. prints for nontheatrical use cost \$60. Prints will also be available for rental from film rental libraries.

Other films in the series, to be available after July 15, are: *Preparing Your Home Against Atomic Attack*, *Fire Fighting for Householders*, *The Cities Must Fight*, *Civil Defense for Industry*, *What You Should Know About Biological Warfare*, *What You Should Know About Poison Gases*, *Emergency Action To Save Lives*, and *Civil Defense for Schools*.

Survival Under Atomic Attack shows protective measures for the civilian population. It deals with steps to be taken at home, on the street, and in public buildings in bombings both with and without warning. Stock atomic bomb explosions are included, and the film maintains an acceptable authenticity throughout. It is based upon the official U. S. Government booklet of the same title and is therefore identical with the information given to the lay public in printed form up to now.

As with *Pattern for Survival*, a speaker thoroughly familiar with the subject and with his community's special problems should accompany the film to answer audience questions.

Civil defense workers will find this movie useful. Because it has condensed much information, it necessarily omits

extensive detail. But at the present time, with the adult public still largely unaware of defensive measures, this film offers an adequate beginning in visual form of the bulletin, which, because of its extensive circulation, should now be familiar to most citizens. The film, of course, has many advantages over the leaflet.

It is narrated, does not include scenes of public hysteria (its victims protect themselves without excessive dramatics), and its treatment makes it applicable to audiences of any age.

GEORGE M. UHL

Hear Better: Better Ears. Structure and care of the ears. 16 mm. Color version, as well as black and white. Sound. 10 minutes. Produced for use with primary and intermediate grades by Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water Street, Chicago 1, Ill. Black and white, \$50; color print, \$100. Consult local film rental libraries for short-term rental.

The importance of sound in our daily life, how our ears function, and how to guard and protect the precious sense of hearing is pleasantly illustrated in this film. Beginning with a sequence of morning sounds, the picture vividly demonstrates how dependent we are upon our ears, as we listen through the ears of a little boy. Jack is awakened by an alarm clock; he hears his father whistling, and his sister's footsteps as she goes downstairs to breakfast; a warning chime reminds him it's time for school—on the way, he hears the policeman's whistle and the sound of an approaching car.

As he approaches the school playground, one of the youngsters is struck on the ear by a ball. This little incident leads easily into a session with the

school nurse, who explains the structure of the ear to the children with the help of an animated wall chart and emphasizes the basic rules for caring for the ears and protecting good hearing.

Perhaps a greater degree of animation might have been used to advantage in illustrating the structure and function of the ear; on the whole, however, the film is excellently produced and should be of value when used as a supplement to a more comprehensive classroom discussion of the hearing problem.

ESTELLE E. SAMUELSON
CORLIS WILBER

Guard Your Heart. How the heart works in health and in certain heart conditions. 16 mm. Black and white. Sound. 27 minutes. Produced for the American Heart Association by Bray Studios, 729 Seventh Avenue, New York 19, N. Y. Prints available at \$150. Consult local film rental libraries for rental rates.

Like too many "educational" motion pictures, this is an illustrated lecture. It is a good illustrated lecture, but except for brief sequences at the beginning and end, it does not take advantage of the motion picture technique.

In the traditional manner, we find Sam pretentiously doing all the wrong things, an understanding wife who sends him to the doctor, and a lecture by the doctor on the anatomy and physiology of the heart and circulation. Briefly, all too briefly, Sam is seen reforming. The actors play their parts well, the photography and sound are good; the animation is especially excellent. However, well over half the running time is

used up in the doctor's talk, apparently on the assumption that if people know what a heart looks like, where it is, and how it and its related blood vessels operate, they will automatically know what to do and what not to do to protect it. Since this is an assumption of dubious validity, the full value of the film will be realized only if it is used as a basis for discussion.

For the beginning medical student or nurse or first aid class, this lecture is useful as any training film could be. For the layman, there is insufficient down-to-earth demonstration of what a person should or should not do to guard his heart. Furthermore the lecture is replete with medical terms like "arteriosclerosis" and "coronary thrombosis," which confuse the layman even though the conditions are beautifully illustrated in the animation.

In a superb and successful effort to convey information, the picture fails to convey knowledge, especially knowledge that might affect behavior. Briefly, one is left with a feeling that if one has a pain in the chest, he had better see a doctor (which is all to the good)—that the heart is a complicated organ which we ought to take care of (which most people already know)—and that we ought not to run for buses or eat our lunches at our desks. Also, seeing the doctor seems to improve one's golf game. It seemed to this reviewer that these simple messages could have been driven home in much less time and that more direct stimuli to action might have been included.

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